3.0 Eligibility Determination by BLM Interdisciplinary Team

The process for determining eligibility for the Monticello Field Office is contained in the Wild and Scenic River Review in the State of Utah, Process and Criteria for Interagency Use, July 1996, frequently referred to as the Utah Wild and Scenic River "Blue Book". These interagency guidelines, signed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM, National Park Service (NPS), United States Forest Service (USFS), and the State of Utah, serve as the reference and basis for the current process.

An interdisciplinary (ID) team was established with professional subject material specialists representing the following disciplines archeology, wildlife biology, range management, solid minerals, recreation, lands-realty, visual resource management, GIS, NEPA planning, and field personnel from the San Juan River Unit and Kane Gulch (Grand Gulch) Ranger Station. (See Section 5.2)

The starting point for the 2003 Monticello Field Office WSR evaluation process was the 1992 list of 164. The ID team reviewed each river/segment for eligibility determination, using the most up-to-date guidelines. Through discussion, the ID Team initially increased the number of watercourses being evaluated by three to 167, adding Step Canyon, Hammond Canyon, and Hart's Draw. From this list, 21 river(s)/ segments were initially identified as potentially eligible.

In the following round of discussion and evaluation, the 21 river(s)/segments initially found eligible were reduced to 16 with three segments being dropped (Lake Canyon, South Cottonwood Canyon, and Montezuma Creek) due to the lack of combined significant ORVs and regional or national significance. Three river/segments were then combined into a single segment: Fish Creek Canyon, Owl Creek Canyon, and McLeod Canyon are within the same drainage system and exhibit the same Outstandingly Remarkable Values and levels of significance, and are within the Fish Creek Canyon Wilderness Study Area.

The following considerations outline current requirements necessary for a river/segment to be determined worthy of inclusion in the first, eligibility, phase of the wild and scenic river determination process, and are the steps followed in the Interdisciplinary Team's evaluation process.

3.1 Reason for Consideration

Suggestions for inclusion in a listing of potentially eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers were gathered from the following sources:

a. Nationwide Rivers Inventory (NRI) list, NPS 1995, (Utah modified Oct 5, 2001)

b. American Rivers Outstanding List, May 1991

c. 1970 USDA/USDI list, and 1972 list

d. A Citizen's Proposal to Protect the Wild Rivers of Utah, 1997

e. Identified in public scooping

f. Identified by Federal Agencies, State of Utah, Native American Tribes, local governments, and professional specialists within the BLM Monticello Field Office

References to the above (**a-f**) are listed on the Eligibility Table under Reason for Consideration. (See Section 3.7, Table 2). When multiple groups suggested a river/segment for consideration, each group is referenced in the table.

3.2 Inventory

The Monticello ID Team used the 1992 San Juan Resource Area Eligibility Assessment, Table WS (Appendix 7.1) as the beginning point for the current 2003 inventory of major drainages. Three major rivers, Colorado, San Juan, and Delores, and their drainage systems are located within the Monticello Field Office area, and listed below in Table 1. These comprise the 167 individual drainage areas whose current status is being evaluated in the wild and scenic river eligibility process, including three watercourses added to the original 1992 list: Step Canyon, Hammond Canyon, and Hart's Draw.

Table 1: River(s)/Segments Inventoried and Evaluated, Drainages by River System, Monticello Field Office

COLORADO RIVER - State lands near river mile 44 to Canyonlands NP, near river mile 31

- WHITE CANYON – Forest boundary to GCNRA
  - BURCH CANYON – Forest boundary to Natural Bridges
  - DEER CANYON – Source to Natural Bridges
  - K AND L CANYON – Source to White Canyon
  - HIDEOUT CANYON – Source to White Canyon
  - CHEESEBOX CANYON – Source to White Canyon
  - GRAVEL CANYON – Source to White Canyon
  - LONG CANYON – Source to White Canyon
  - SHORT CANYON – Source to White Canyon
  - FORTKNOCKER CANYON – Source to White Canyon
  - FRY CANYON –Source to White Canyon
  - WHITE CANYON Unnamed Tributaries – Sources to mouths
- RED CANYON – Source to GCRNA
  - BLUE CANYON – Source to Red Canyon
  - PIUTE CANYON – Source to Red Canyon
  - RAINBO CANYON – Source to Red Canyon
  - MAHON CANYON – Source to GCNRA
  - WILSON CANYON – Source to GCNRA
  - HIDDEN VALLEY – Source to GCNRA
  - BLUE NOTCH CANYON – Source to GCNRA
  - RED CANYON Unnamed Tributaries – Sources to mouths
- MANCOS CANYON – Source to GCNRA boundary
- CEDAR CANYON – Source to GCNRA boundary
- KNOWLES CANYON – Source to GCNRA boundary
- FORGOTTEN CANYON – Source to GCNRA boundary

NORTH GULCH – Source to GCNRA
MOKI CANYON – Source to "Crack" Road
-"Crack" Road to GCNRA boundary
LAKE CANYON – Sources E & W forks to GCNRA boundary
INDIAN CREEK – Forest boundary to Donnelly Canyon
TITUS CANYON – BLM lands to mouth
SHAY CANYON – BLM lands to mouth
HOG CANYON – Source to mouth
DONNELLY CANYON – Source to mouth
INDIAN CREEK – Donnelly Canyon to Falls 2 miles below mouth of Hart Canyon
HART DRAW – Source to Donnelly Canyon
INDIAN CREEK – Falls 2 miles below Hart Canyon to NPS boundary
LAVENDER CANYON – NPS boundary to mouth
DAVIS CANYON – NPS boundary to mouth
HATCH WASH
TANK WASH – Source to mouth
MAIL STATION WASH – Source to mouth
WIND WHISTLE DRAW – Source to mouth
HATCH WASH / EAST CANYON
BIG INDIAN WASH – Source to Resource Area boundary
DRY WASH – Source to mouth
EAST CANYON – Source to Resource Area boundary
SOUTH CANYON – BLM lands to mouth
IRON SPRING CANYON – BLM lands to mouth
BRIDGE CANYON – BLM land to mouth
PETERS CANYON – BLM lands to mouth
HART'S DRAW – Source to mouth
TURNERWATER CANYON – Source to mouth
LONE CEDAR CANYON – Source to mouth
HART SPRING CANYON – Source to mouth
BOBBYS HOLD CANYON – Source to mouth
HART CANYON Tributaries from Hart Point – Sources to mouths
NORTH COTTONWOOD – BLM lands to mouth
STEVENS CANYON – BLM lands to mouth
RUSTLER CANYON – Source to mouth
HORSETHIEF CANYON – Source to NPS boundary
LOCKHART CANYON – Source to NPS boundary
DRIPPING CANYON – Source to NPS boundary
SALT CREEK – BLM land to NPS boundary
BUTLER WASH – Source to NPS boundary
CROSS CANYON – Source to NPS boundary
BEEF BASIN WASH – Forest boundary to mouth
RUIN CANYON – BLM lands to mouth
GYPSUM CANYON – Source to GCNRA boundary
SWEET ALICE CANYON – Source to mouth
SOUTH CANYON – Source to mouth
FABLE VALLEY – Source to mouth
BOWDIE CANYON – Source to GCNRA
DARK CANYON – Forest Boundary to GCNRA
LEANTO CANYON – Source to GCNRA
YOUNGS CANYON – Source to mouth
BLACK STEER CANYON – Source to mouth
LOST CANYON – Source to mouth

SAN JUAN RIVER - W. Montezuma Creek to mile 9
- River mile 9 to river mile 23

- River mile 23-28 (above boat ramp to town of Mexican Hat)
- River mile 28 to GCNRA boundary

LOWER SAN JUAN Tributaries – Sources to mouths

JOHNIES HOLE CANYON – Entire length

CASTLE CREEK – Source to Rock Spring

- Rock Spring to GCNRA boundary

MIKE'S CANYON – East & West main forks, Sources to GCNRA

CLAY HILLS DRAW – Source to GCNRA boundary

WHIRLWIND DRAW – Source to GCNRA boundary

STEER GULCH – Source to GCNRA boundary

EAST STEER GULCH – Source to GCNRA boundary

POINT LOOKOUT Drainages – Source to GCNRA boundary

JOHNS CANYON – Source to GCNRA boundary

MEXICAN HAT NORTH Drainages – Sources to San Juan River

GRAND GULCH

- Gulch and Tributaries inside Instant Study Area
- Gulch and Tributaries outside Instant Study Area

DRIPPING CANYON – Source to Grand Gulch Instant Study Area

COW TANK CANYON– Source to Dripping Canyon

STEP CANYON – Source to Pine Canyon

PINE CANYON – Source to Grand Gulch Instant Study Area

SLICKHORN CANYON – Source to GCNRA boundary

SLICKHORN PASTURE CANYON – Source to GCNRA boundary

LIME CREEK, East and West Forks - Sources East and West Forks to confluence with main stream to mouth

COMB WASH – Source to mouth

MULE CANYON – Forest boundary to No & So forks convergence east oft County Rd 263 and St 95

- Texas Flat Road to mouth

ARCH CANYON – Forest boundary to mouth

DRY WASH – Source to mouth

FISH CREEK – Source to mouth

OWL Creek – Source to mouth

McLEOD CANYON – Upper end

- Lower 5 miles to mouth

ROAD CANYON (all forks) – Sources to mouth

BARTON RANGE CANYON – Source to mouth

BUTLER WASH – Source to mouth

STEVENS CANYON – Source to Butler Wash

SOUTH COTTONWOOD – Forest boundary to mouth

HAMMOND CANYON – Forest Boundary to South Cottonwood

WHISKERS DRAW – Source to mouth

BRUSHY BASIN WASH – Source to mouth

ZEKE'S HOLE Drainage – Source to mouth

WESTWATER CANYON – Source to mouth

RIGHTHAND FORK – Ute lands to mouth

BLACK ROCK CANYON – Source to mouth

RECAPTURE CANYON – Forest boundary to mouth

JOHNSON CREEK – Forest boundary to mouth

BULLDOG CANYON – BLM lands to mouth

BULLPUP CANYON – BLM lands to mouth

BROWN CANYON – BLM lands to mouth

CORRAL CREEK – BLM lands to mouth

UTE CANYON – Source to mouth

ROAD CANYON – Source to mouth

HORSE CANYON – Source to Navajo Reservation

JENNYS CANYON – Source to mouth
ALKALI CANYON – Source to Navajo Reservation
BULLPEN SWALE – Source to mouth
McCRACKEN WASH – BLM lands to mouth
BUCKET CANYON – BLM lands to mouth
MONTEZUMA CREEK – BLM lands to Navajo Reservation
VERDURE CREEK – Lower 2 miles
BOULDER CREEK – Lower 2 miles
PEARSON CANYON – Source to mouth
HORSEHEAD CANYON – Source to mouth
BIGWATER CANYON – Source to mouth
COALBED CANYON – Stateline (CO) to mouth
TANK CANYON – Source to mouth
MONUMENT CANYON – Stateline (CO) to mouth
LAKE CANYON – Source to mouth
BULL CANYON – Source to mouth
BUG CANYON – Source to private land
BLACK STEER CANYON – BLM lands
DODGE CANYON – BLM lands to mouth
LONG CANYON – BLM lands to mouth
DEVIL CANYON – BLM lands to mouth
BRADFORD CANYON – Source to mouth
DEADMAN CANYON – Source to mouth
CAVE CANYON – Source to mouth
McELMO Drainage
CAJON LAKE – T.39S., R26 E., S.10, NWNW
LITTLE RUIN CANYON – Hovenweep NM. To Navajo Reservation
KEELEY CANYON – BLM lands to mouth

DELORES RIVER
SUMMIT CANYON – BLM lands to Stateline (CO)
RUSTLER CANYON – BLM land to mouth
WILDHORSE CANYON – BLM lands to mouth
CROSS CANYON – Stateline (CO) to mouth
LITTLE NANCY CANYON – Source to mouth
NANCY PATTERSON CANYON – Source to mouth
SQUAW CANYON – Stateline (CO) to mouth
PAPOOSE CANYON – Stateline (CO) to mouth
CROSS CANYON POND – T.38S, R.25E, S.35, SENW

The Monticello Field Office area, a desert, semi-desert region, has a multitude of watercourses, washes, and canyons. Each of the three major river drainages and their tributaries were assessed and listed. Drainages were segmented where there were areas necessitating differentiation due to differing character, and combined, in one instance, Fish Creek Canyon, where three drainages contain similar values and significance. Otherwise, all listed entities are separate watercourses occurring on BLM land.

3.3 Free - Flowing

All rivers in Monticello Field Office area are considered free-flowing. The river(s)/segments evaluated

- Exist in their Natural Condition
- Flow in Natural Condition

- Have few Impoundments (See Section 3.6))
- Have few Diversions (See Section 3.6)
- Have no Straightening
- Have no Rip-Rapping
- Have no Modifications such as channelization

3.4 Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs)

For a river to be eligible for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System, it must possess one or more outstandingly remarkable values (ORVs). Each value must be directly river-related, considered "Outstandingly Remarkable" as it exhibits rare/unique and/or exemplary values within the geographic region, and must be determined to be regionally or nationally significant by the ID Team.

The ORVs are listed in the WSR Review in the State of Utah (Blue Book) as follows:

S - SCENIC – Diversity of view, Special Features, Seasonal Variations, Cultural Modifications

F - FISH – Habitat Quality, Diversity of Species, Value of Species, Abundance of fish, Natural Reproduction, Size and Vigor of Fish, Cultural/Historic Importance, Recreational Importance, Access

R - RECREATION – WATER ORIENTED AND GENERAL – Length of Season, Flow, Diversity of Use, Experience Quality, Scenery/Naturalness, Access, Level of Use, Associated Opportunities, Attraction, Sites and Facilities

W - WILDLIFE – Habitat Quality, Diversity of Species, Abundance of Species, Natural Reproduction, Size and Vigor of Species, Cultural/Historic Importance Recreational Importance, Access

G - GEOLOGIC – Feature Abundance, Diversity of Features, Educational/Scientific

H - HISTORIC – Significance, Education/Interpretation, Listing/Eligibility, Site Integrity

C - CULTURAL – Significance, Current Uses, Number of Cultures, Site Integrity, Education / Interpretation, Listing / Eligibility

E - ECOLOGICAL – Species Diversity, Ecological Function, Rare Communities, Education / Scientific

The Interdisciplinary (ID) Team subject matter specialists evaluated the ORVs for each of the 167 river(s)/segments. The preliminary list (See Section 3.7, Table 2) of 16 recommended eligible river(s)/segments have specific ORV descriptions prepared by the ID team specialists. (See Section 5.0, Table 3).

The ID Team found the remaining 149 river segments to have insufficient outstandingly remarkable values when compared regionally and nationally, and were, therefore, dropped from further consideration within the eligibility process.

3.5 Region of Comparison / Level of Significance

The planning process for wild and scenic rivers prescribes that resources under review be compared at a minimum regionally, and be found significant either regionally and/or nationally. A previously suggested method, not chosen in this study, for regional comparison was based on Hydrologic Regions within the State of Utah. However, The Wild and Scenic River Review in the State of Utah, p.5, (the Blue Book) noted that "the determination of the appropriate region of comparison is left to the individuals involved in the ongoing planning effort", and, "that an appropriate region(s) [be] explicitly defined and that the methodology herein described [be] applied within that region(s)."

Ecological Subregions of the United States, produced by the US Forest Service in 1993, lists Subregions and Sections based on Ecological Units. The framework provides a systematic method for classifying and mapping areas of the Earth based on associations of ecological factors that change at different spatial scales. (WO ECOMAP TEAM, 1993). Ecological types and Ecological Units are developed at various scales by integrating multiple components including climate, physiography, geology, soils, water, and potential natural vegetation (FSM2060, FSH 2090.11). The primary purpose for delineating Ecological Units is to identify land and water areas at different hierarchical levels that have similar capabilities and potentials for management.

A discussion among WSR planners in BLM Utah and Forest Service in May, 2002, resulted in a summary of that discussion being e-mailed to statewide, federal agency Utah wild and scenic river planners, noting that the use of Ecological Units at the Section level of hierarchy was the best choice for region of comparison .

Subregions within the Ecological Units are characterized by combinations of climate, geomorphic process, topography, and stratigraphy. Within Subregions, Sections are broad areas of similar regional climate, geomorphic process, stratigraphy, geologic origin, and drainage networks (WO ECOMAP TEAM, 1993).

As suggested in the above referenced Utah email, "ecological sections are the best choice for regions of comparison. [They] define distinct breaks in major ecological systems defined by geology, geomorphology, climate, etc. They are the breaks that are most visible on the landscape, and provide an excellent context for relative consistency in scenic and other resource values for a region of comparison."

The following is a list of the Subregions/Sections initially considered as region(s) of comparison by the Monticello Field Office Interdisciplinary Team in their 2003 evaluation of the area's watercourses for potential eligibility as wild and scenic rivers. (See composite map, Appendix 7.2.)

- Subregion: Colorado Semi-Desert / Chapter 36
    - Sections:
        - Grand Canyon (313A)
        - Navajo Canyonlands (313B)
        - Painted Desert (313D)

- Subregion: Arizona-New Mexico Mountains Semi-Desert – Open Woodland – Coniferous Forest – Alpine Meadow / Chapter 38
    - Section:
        - White Mountain-San Francisco Peaks-Mogollon Rim (M313A)

- Subregion: Southern Rocky Mountain Steppe – Open Woodland – Coniferous Forest – Alpine Meadow / Chapter 43
    - Sections:
        - Overthrust Mountains (M331D)
        - Uinta Mountains (M332E)
        - South Central Highlands ((M331G)
        - Northern-Central Highland and Rocky Mountains (M331H)

- Subregion: Intermountain Semi-Desert and Desert / Chapter 47
    - Sections:
        - Bonneville Basin (341A)
        - Northern Canyon Lands (341B)

- Subregion: Nevada-Utah Mountains Semi-Desert – Coniferous Forest – Alpine Meadow / Chapter 49
    - Sections:
        - Tavaputs Plateau (M341B)
        - Utah High Plateaus Mountains (M341C)

The above mentioned Subregions and Sections for Region of Comparison were further defined by the ID Team during the evaluation process. This list was narrowed (see list below) to the specific Sections utilized for final comparison by the ID Team for each outstandingly remarkable value (ORV). (See Appendix 2, Composite Map of Regions, and Individual ORV(s) maps).

SCENIC AND RECREATION:

- Grand Canyon Lands Section (313A)
- Navajo Canyon Lands Section (313B)
- Northern Canyonlands Section (341B)

FISH / WILDLIFE / ECOLOGY:

- Grand Canyon Lands Section313A)
- Navajo Canyon Lands Section(313B)
- Bonneville Basin Section (341A)
- Northern Canyonlands Section (341B)
- Tavaputs Plateau Section (M341B)

GEOLOGY:

- Grand Canyon Lands Section (313A)
- Navajo Canyon Lands Section (313B)

HISTORIC / CULTURAL:

- Grand Canyon Lands Section (313A)
- Navajo Canyon Lands Section (313B)
- White Mountain-San Francisco Peaks-Mogollon Rim Section (M313A)

Each outstandingly remarkable value (ORV) was considered first within the specific set of regions for comparison (noted above). The Interdisciplinary Team then determined if the ORV was regionally and/or nationally significant, that is showing exemplary and/or rare and unique qualities.

Those river/segments with outstandingly remarkable values (ORVs) deemed to have insufficient value compared regionally or nationally were dropped from further consideration.

3.4 Tentative Classification

A tentative classification of Wild, Scenic, or Recreational is determined for each eligible river/segment. Tentative classifications are based on the type and degree of human development associated with the river and adjacent lands, as they exist at the time of the evaluation.

During tentative classification evaluation, it was noted that Indian Creek has a diversion on BLM land, the South Fork of Mule Canyon has some low dams, and Arch Canyon has an historic irrigation dike. These notations contributed to the segment's tentative classification as Recreational. (See Appendix 7.4, Classification Criteria for Wild, Scenic or Recreational river areas, and Section 5.0, Preliminary Determination - Individual Eligible Rivers(s)/Segments).

The four key elements in evaluating tentative classification are:

1. Water Resources Development
2. Shoreline Development
3. Accessibility
4. Water Quality

Eligible rivers are classified Wild, Scenic, or Recreational based on man's activities.

- A Wild river is free of impoundments, with shorelines or watersheds essentially primitive, and unpolluted waters
- A Scenic river may have some development, and may be accessible in places by roads.
- A Recreational river is considered as a river or segment of river accessible by road or railroad, may have more extensive development along its shoreline, and may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past.

3.5 Eligibility of River(s)/Segments Evaluated

The following table identifies the 16 preliminary river(s)/segments within the Monticello Field Office area determined to be eligible (free-flowing, and with at least one (1) river-related outstandingly remarkable value (ORV)). The current (2003) 16 river/segments are not the same as the 16 segments determined in 1992; a number of the originally determined eligible river/segments have been deleted or combined, and three added.

Added river/segments include Fable Valley, Slickhorn Canyon, Mule Canyon, and a re-segmentation of the San Juan River resulting in four segments rather than the original three. Combined areas include Fish Creek Canyon, Owl Canyon and McLeod Canyon, all of which are within the same drainage, possess the same outstandingly remarkable values, and have the same tentative classification. Dropped from the original 1992 list are Lake Canyon, and the Falls section of Indian Creek.